

History Graduate Programme Newsletter

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Coming Events

The second in this year's Workshops in Teaching Methods will be held on Friday, March, 3rd from 2:30-4:00 in the Loyola Campus History Seminar Room. The subject: 'The Good Lecture'.

Dagobert Broh will present a colloquium on his doctoral research, concerning a German newspaper in New York City in the early 20th century, Monday, March 6th at 3 PM in the SCW Campus History Seminar Room. All are welcome.

Lorne Huston will defend his doctoral thesis, 'L'evolution des expositions d'art a Paris et le pouvoir dans la vie artistique, 1864-1914' on Friday, March 10th at 2 PM in Room H-773 on the SCW campus. The supervisor is Dr. Geoff Adams. All are welcome.

The School of Community and Public Affairs is sponsoring a public lecture by Dr. Abraham Rotstein of the University of Toronto, who will speak on 'Recurrent Dilemmas in Canadian History'. The talk will be held in the SCPA Lounge, 2149 Mackay, March 16th at 8 PM.

The final Teaching Methods Workshop will be offered on March 17th in the Loyola Campus History Seminar Room, 2:30-4:00. This will take up 'Assignments, Grading and Other Problems'.

Accomplishments

Two students will be moving on after successfully completing their MA degree requirements in recent weeks. We congratulate Paul Kilbertus and Elmer Cleary.

Paul successfully defended his MA thesis, entitled 'Thomas Mann, Roger Du Gard and the Crisis of the Bourgeoisie before the First World War' on February 17th. The thesis was supervised by Prof. Bill Hubbard. Paul returns to his post teaching English in Quebec City.

Elmer successfully completed his MA essay on 'The Montreal Longshoremen and International Trade Unionism: the Great Strike of 1903' under the supervision of Dr. Walter Van Nus.

Prof. Graham Carr recently spoke on 'Canadian-American Cultural Relations and Free Trade' before the St. James Literary Society of Montreal. Dr. Joan Sherwood, Visiting Assistant Professor in our department last year and currently a member of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, has had her book Poverty in Eighteenth Century Spain: the Women and Children of the Inclusa published by

the University of Toronto Press. Finally, PhD student Ivan Wang has published a short novel, 'The Story of People Going Overseas' in the Chinese literary journal Harvest Magazine. He has also written a number of poems for journals published in China and elsewhere, including the People's Daily of Beijing.

The Bulletin Board

The last Newsletter noted that the deadline to apply for a Teaching Assistantship for the 1989-1990 academic year is 31 March. Forms are available from Linda McDonald.

As we come into the home stretch of this academic year it is also time for PhD candidates to have their annual meetings with their supervisory committees. Such meetings should be concluded by the beginning of April, so that each supervisor can report on the progress of his or her student to the Graduate Committee by the end of classes. Students can expect supervisors to initiate such meetings.

External Evaluation

The Department has now received the report of the External Evaluator, Dr. Paul Christianson of Queens University, who visited the campus in mid-January as part of our septennial Programme Evaluation. Though this Evaluator's Report is only one of several considerations which will underlie the final Evaluation Report issued by the Board of Graduate Studies, it is always interesting to see how we are perceived by knowing outsiders.

In brief, the Christianson Report is largely favourable, and sometimes glowing, in its assessment. He ranks us overall a cut above such programmes as Carleton and Western and on a par with McMaster and Queens. While recognizing that there are some adjustments which might be considered, he was impressed with the success of students in obtaining external funding in an ill-supported discipline and in securing History-related employment after graduation, with the quality of teaching and with the level of student enthusiasm toward the programme. His harshest criticisms were reserved for the administration, which was cited for its relative lack of financial support for graduate fellowships or for faculty replacement positions. The Final Evaluation Report will be issued by the Board of Graduate Studies in early April.